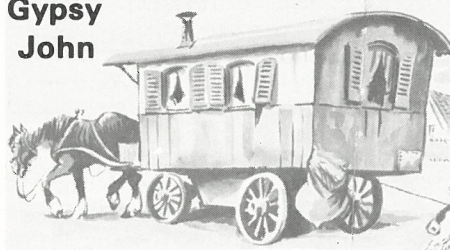


VOL 78 - PART 5
FOR OCTOBER 31, 1976

Messages of the Love of God

Gypsy John



Little John was born of gypsy parents. He had a gentle, loving mother, but his father was a hard drinking man. His father had left him in care of the horse while he was in a tavern. The horse broke loose and ran off down the street. Little John fled when his enraged father shouted, "I'll break your neck."

Afraid to face a terrible whipping, John ran away from home and finally arrived in the big city. He never saw his parents again. Often in years to follow, with a bundle of unsold newspapers under his arm, he would steal away by himself and sob his heart out. He would have given all he possessed for but one glimpse of his dear mother again, but this was not to be.

Alone, unloved and homeless, poor little gypsy John wandered among the crowds on the streets of the great city. But a gracious God and a tender Saviour in heaven had His eyes upon the friendless little waif, and he was destined to experience a father's affection beyond anything he had known at home in the gypsy caravan, for God "setteth the solitary in families" (Psa. 68:6).

John got in with some newsboys, and for three months he derived a

meager living from the sale of newspapers. Many a night he spent in an unused wagon or down on the riverbank.

Then one day he appeared at the door of a Christian refuge home carried on by a Mr. & Mrs. Gray. Meetings were held regularly, and God blessed the gospel to the salvation of many. It was here that John came under Christian influences for the first time. Mrs. Gray was much attracted to the little gypsy boy and became a real mother to him. He loved her as much as any boy loved his own mother.

John worked hard and saved his earnings and became an apprentice in shoemaking. One night the gospel services were taken by a shoemaker who had a real love for souls and gave an earnest appeal. His text, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee," gripped young John's soul. A solemn hush fell on all who heard the story of the rich farmer who had lived without God. (Luke 12.)

Fastening his eyes on the gypsy boy and pointing his finger directly at him the speaker said, "if God called you tonight, where would you spend eternity?" These words went like a sword to John's heart, and he saw himself a vile, unclean sinner unprepared to meet God. That night he could not sleep. The text haunted him; he was afraid to sleep unconverted, lest he should wake up in hell.

In the silence of the night the shoemaker was awakened by a tap on his door. "Whose there?" he called out gruffly. It was John. As the shoemaker opened the door, the boy

burst into tears and sobbed out, "Oh, sir! I'm such a big sinner that I can't go to sleep." His friend put his arm around him and made him sit down by the fire. He read from his Bible several scriptures, among them:

"He that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24. Then he read Acts 2:21: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Light shone into the boy's soul. They knelt down together, and for the first time in his life, John prayed to God. Immediately the burden of his sins was lifted and a great peace stole over his heart. Gypsy John had found Christ, and the loving Shepherd had found His lost little sheep. From then on He would bear him on His shoulders rejoicing.

"Now, Johnny," said his friend, "take a bold stand for Jesus Christ. Nail your colors to the mast and refuse to haul them down."

Then he gave John a text, "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the Son of man confess before the angels of God; but he that denieth Me before men shall be de-

nied before the angels of God." Luke 12:8, 9.

"My dear boy," he continued, "you have no friends or relatives to help you, but remember, Johnny, God will take care of you. If you look after God's interests, God lives to look after yours."

John became a real soul winner. While still a young fellow he busied himself in gospel work, speaking at meetings for the boys and giving his testimony on the street corner. He was naturally shy, and when asked to say a few words to an audience where mostly adults were present, the only words he could stammer out were: "Jesus loves me and I love Jesus; I want you to love Him, too." Then he broke down, the tears flowing down his face. But many hearts were softened that day, and perhaps more was done by those simple heart-felt words and tears than many an eloquent, polished sermon.

For 50 years and more John served the Lord in the gospel and God blessed His simple ministry of Christ. Only eternity will reveal how many found the Saviour through the faithful testimony of the converted gypsy boy. "He faileth not." To Him be all the praise!

A

HIDDEN MESSAGE



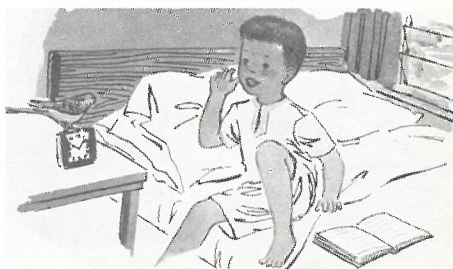
Find a hidden message by blocking out the following letters - B, C, E, G, K, N, R, V.

G L O V E I N
A M R W I T H
K E Y O U C R
B R A L W A Y

Block out the following letters: A, B, C, G, I, M, Q, S, U, Z.

S L O V E S M
N O T A B A G
Q U I T H E M
C Z W O R L D

Freddie's Bible



Freddie wished he had a Bible of his own. "Tom has a Bible," he said to his grandmother. "Linda has one, too, and they carry their Bibles to Sunday school. They take turns reading verses in class, but I can't."

"But you can't read," said Grandmother. "You couldn't read a Bible if you had one."

"I think I could," said the little fellow. "I'm learning to read, you know; let me try."

Grandma took her Bible and opened it to Psalm 1. Freddie looked at it and then shook his head. He couldn't read a word.

But he studied hard at school. Every day he could read a few more words and Grandma taught him some words at home.

One day Freddie read the whole Psalm to his grandmother without one mistake. Quickly Grandmother opened a drawer and took out a beautiful little Bible.

"It is yours, Freddie," she said; then on the very first page she wrote, "Freddie Thompson."

Freddie was thrilled. He read his Bible before he went to bed that night. He read it when he got up in the morning. He took it to Sunday school and took his turn reading in class. He took his Bible with him wherever he went.

One day Freddie took his Bible with him when he went shopping with his grandmother. He was so interested in all the things there were to see, and in the crowds that thronged the stores, that he forgot all about his Bible. They were on their way home when he discovered his tiny Bible was not in his pocket. He began to cry, so Grandmother took him back to the stores to look for his lost treasure. But they couldn't find it.

For a whole year Freddie looked, but in vain; then one day a gospel preacher visited his grandmother.

"Freddie," he said, "I saw your Bible a few days ago. An old lady has it. She is dying and sent for me. For many years she had lived without God, but about a year ago, when she was shopping in a store, she saw a little book on the floor. She picked it up and took it home.

She read about the Lord Jesus, and He spoke to her heart through His Word. Gently He drew her to Himself and at last she claimed Him as her own Saviour. Now her life is changed. She showed me the Book, and there on the first page was your name. Soon she will be leaving this world and go to be with that beloved One who saved her. She would like to keep the Bible until

then. Do you mind if she does, Freddie?"

"Oh, of course not!" said Freddie, "Just think, if I hadn't lost my Bible, perhaps she never would have been saved."



Pat and Lynn

Pat and Lynn worked together in a large hospital. Lynn was a Christian girl, and whenever she had the opportunity, she sought to tell Pat about her Saviour.

She told her how important it was to settle the question of her eternal destiny NOW, and that the Bible says, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Prov. 27:1. God does not promise us a tomorrow; tomorrow may never come. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2.

At first Pat scoffed at Lynn, and the other employees did, too.

But one Saturday morning, when Pat and Lynn worked the first shift, and no one else was around, Pat meekly said, "Lynn, tell me about heaven and hell." It was evident that her conscience was being affected now, so Lynn spoke to Pat of sin, of righteousness and judgment to come; she told her of her great need to be saved and of the Saviour so willing to save her.

"I want to turn to the Lord," said Pat, "but how could I face my relatives?"

Sad to say, as far as we know, Pat never turned to the Saviour.

The Bible tells us that "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe." Prov. 29:25. It also warns us to "flee from the wrath to come." Matt. 3:7.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.

New Testament Men



To Titus, Paul wrote one epistle. An epistle is simply a letter—in this case a letter from God—for the men who wrote these Bible-letters were inspired of God, and what they wrote is a revelation from Him to us. Now, when we receive a letter from a friend, we begin at the beginning and we read it through to the end, even though we may be interrupted in the middle. If we value it we read it again, and even many times, perhaps. Certainly we ought not to treat God's letters less well.

"How do you read your Bible?" is a question sometimes addressed to young people, and the answer often received is, "Oh, I just open and read anywhere." Now, though it may be very nice and even profitable to do this sometimes because all the Bible is good, yet it is far better to study a book or an epistle as a whole and to read it straight through. Thus we may gain some idea of its contents and are more likely to discover what God had in view in preserving for us such a letter or book. We know, for instance, that each gospel presents Christ in a different character, that in Ephesians Paul tells us about the body of Christ, in Philippians he instructs us what the life of a Christian here should be like, Colossians is about Christ the Head of the body, and so on. Let us try and read God's letters in this way and learn *His* thoughts in this evil day when men are making much of themselves and trying to ignore His Book and His ways.

But to return to Titus; who was he? He is not named in Acts, but chapter 15 tells us that when Paul and Barnabas went to Jerusalem to consult the apostles about circumcision, "cer-

tain others" went with them, and from Galatians 2 we learn that among these "others" was Titus. He was a Greek, and he was not circumcised. Timothy had been circumcised, perhaps because his mother was a Jewess; but Titus was purely Gentile, and Paul would not give up his liberty in Christ Jesus and be brought into bondage to law to please anybody.

It is in Corinthians that we hear the most of Titus. It appears that he was first to Corinth to find out how Paul's first Epistle, containing some sharp reproofs, had been received, and that then he was again sent there with the second letter. All this was a source of great anxiety and also great joy, both to the messenger and the writer (2 Cor. 7). Titus was also commissioned to incite them to liberality and to distribution for the needs of others.

The Epistle of Titus somewhat resembles 1 Timothy and was probably written about the same time; but though Titus was converted (1:4) through Paul, he does not seem to regard him with quite the same affection and confidence as Timothy. He left him, however, in Crete, in a position of responsibility (chapter 1). Then he begged him to meet him at Nicopolis (Macedonia), and spend the winter with him, but whether this was accomplished is not known.

From 2 Timothy 4:10 we learn that when Paul was almost alone at Rome, Titus had departed to Dalmatia, whether rightly or wrongly we cannot say. It is *said* that he went from Dalmatia to Crete where he died at an advanced age.

Jesus Christ . . . Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, . . . to Him be glory and dominion for ever.
Revelation 1:5,6

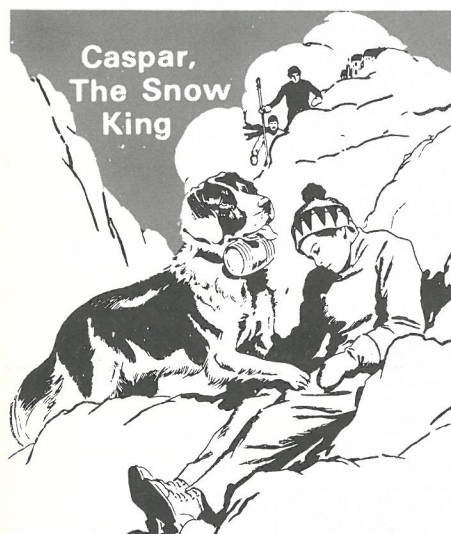
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Messages of the Love of God



Caspar was a great Saint Bernard dog who lived far up on the Alps mountains. He was a king of the snow, every inch of him. Though not a very old dog, he had already saved two lives.

One day early in the morning it began to snow up on the mountains. Upon the mountain sides lay vast masses of snow and ice that grew heavier as the snow fell. Sometimes just a loud word spoken would jar the air or the snow and send an avalanche crashing into the valley. In spite of the bad weather, four men and 14 year-old Paolo came trudging up the mountain road. Paolo's father had advised the men not to attempt to cross the mountain that day, but they insisted on going on. Paolo had slipped unseen out of the house and joined them, for he had lost one of his goats several days before and had hopes of finding it.

Suddenly one of those terrible whirlwinds which often occur in the Alps swept around a corner and moments later Paolo found himself buried beneath an immense heap of snow.

He could breathe but that was all. How many feet of snow was above him he did not know. He found himself sinking deeper and deeper in the soft snow. At last his feet touched the ground. He struggled and kicked and rolled and scrambled his way along for several yards. Suddenly he stumbled out into the open air and went plunging down a precipice only to fall into another bed of snow. He found himself on a ledge some 20 feet below the road, but there he was unable to go further.

Paolo thought about his parents and what a wretch he was for leaving them as he had done. He could not shout for the cold, and he could not see far. He knew if he went to sleep, he would never wake up again. In all the world there was no one who could save him. But Paolo was not counting on Caspar. Then he dozed off.

In the meantime the four men had gone on and reached the inn. They told of how Paolo had disappeared in the avalanche of snow.

At once two men started out with Caspar. Right through the snow storm came the great dog! Running over the frozen crust, plunging through the deep places, bounding, leaping, caring not for drift or storm, like a snow king, as he was, came Caspar.

He made a dash at Paolo and rolled him over in the snow. Then he barked at him in his deep gruff voice as if to say, "Wake up, foolish boy! Don't

MEMORY
VERSE

"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto
God by Him."

Hebrews 7:25

you know I'm here? It is all right now." He pushed Paolo first on one side and then the other until finally the boy opened his eyes.

Again the great Caspar barked. His loud commanding voice seemed to announce: "I've found him! Here he is!" The two men arrived, and taking Paolo by the arms, they lifted him up. They started home with Paolo between them and Caspar leading the way.

Caspar cared not for drift or storm until he found the boy. Conqueror of the snows, triumphant over the storm, he was a true snow king.

And the Lord Jesus has conquered death and the grave to save His lost and perishing sheep, for "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isa. 53:6.

The Saviour cared not for death or demon. He loved the ones for whom He died, and nothing could turn Him

back. His love carried Him on through all the sorrows, the reproach and "the contradiction of sinners against Himself"; and finally when He entered that deep dark valley of death, where on the cross He suffered the judgment of God against sin, still He would not turn back.

Himself He could not save;
Love's stream too deeply flowed;
In love Himself He gave,
To pay the debt we owed.

Now He is carrying His lost sheep on His shoulders rejoicing and will not set it down until safe home in the glory. One day He shall reign as King over all the earth, and those who love His name now shall reign with Him in that day.

O! that you might come to know this blessed Saviour, dear reader, and be carried home to heaven on those shoulders of strength.



Old Joe the fisherman was an earnest happy Christian. In his declining years he used to spend his afternoons on the beach giving away gospel papers and tracts among the people and speaking to them about Jesus as he had opportunity. The children were very fond of old Joe, for he had lots of stories to tell of the sea and its danger.

Perhaps the one he told mostly was the story of his own conversion. This took place at sea one stormy night, through resting his soul on the Lord

Jesus through the words of John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"My anchor held there," he would say, "and I know of no better anchorage for a sinner than that grand, glorious verse. Many a weary storm-tossed soul has anchored there, and found rest and peace through believing that God loved them."

Reader, have you anchored there, or are you tossed about, afraid to meet God, because you do not know His love for you, a sinner?

Old Joe took suddenly ill one day. He was missed on the beach, and many who knew and loved him called at the house to ask how he was. His pilgrim days were done; just before he passed away, he raised his hand and, pointing to a framed card on the wall with the words of John 3:16 on it, he said in triumph, "The anchor holds! The anchor holds!"

Wasn't it good anchorage? Let it be yours, my reader; all else will fail, but "The Word of the Lord endureth forever."

Are You Sure That Is There?



Grandpa was old and blind and was spending his last days in a nursing home. While there he was often visited by his little granddaughter, who would read to him portions of the Word of God.

One day while little Rose was reading from First John, she came to that wonderful verse, "And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Here the old man suddenly interrupted her, and raising himself up on his bed he asked with great earnestness: "Is that there, my dear?"

"Yes, Grandpa," she replied.

"Then read it to me again, I've never heard the like before."

Little Rose read again: "And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

"You are quite sure that is there?"

"Yes, quite sure."

"Then take my hand, and lay my finger on the passage, for I should like to feel it."

The little girl took the old blind man's hand and placed his bony finger on the seventh verse. Then he said, "Now, read it to me again."

With her sweet gentle voice little Rose read again: "And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Again the old man asked, "You are sure that is there, Rose?"

"Yes, quite sure, Grandpa," she assured him.

"Then," said the old man, "if any one should ask how I died, tell them I died in the faith of these words, 'And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.'"

With that he withdrew his hand, his

head fell softly back on the pillow, and he silently passed into the presence of Him whose blood cleanseth from all sin.

Now, dear reader, may I ask, if you were called to die, would your parting testimony be like that of the old blind man? Are you resting on the precious blood of Christ? Can you say, "I live as well as die in the faith of these words, 'The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.'"?

"Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Psalms 51:7.

SIMON PETER

Sifted As Wheat



When farmers sift grain they separate the grain from the chaff. The grain is precious, but it needs to be separated from the chaff before it can be used.

The last passover night after Judas had gone out into the darkness, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

Peter did not think he needed to be sifted, so he answered, "Lord, I am ready to go with Thee, both into prison, and into death."

Jesus said, "I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest Me."

But Peter could not believe this, and he spoke more emphatically still: "If I should die with Thee, I will not deny Thee in any wise." The other disciples said the same.

And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane, and He saith to His disciples, "Sit ye here, while I shall

pray." And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; and said unto them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here and watch." And He went forward a little, and fell on the ground and prayed.

When He came back, He found them sleeping and said to Peter, "Simon, sleepest thou? Couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

But though temptation was so near at hand, they slept again while Jesus prayed. They slept from grief, but they missed the unspeakable privilege of watching with their Lord in the hour of His soul's deep agony.

Then Judas came and with him a great crowd with swords and sticks to take Jesus.

When Peter saw Jesus in the hands of His enemies, he forgot the Lord's words: "I say unto you, that ye resist not evil." And he drew a sword and smote one of those standing by, a servant of the high priest's, whose name was Malchus, and cut off his right ear.

Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put up thy sword into the sheath; the cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?" And He touched the man's ear and healed him.

When Peter and the other disciples saw Jesus taken and bound, they all forsook Him and fled. But as He was led away to the high priest, Peter followed afar off. Then they took Jesus into the high priest's palace. John went in, too, but Peter remained at the door outside until John went and brought him in.

The servants and officers had made a fire, for it was cold, and poor Peter stood with the enemies of His blessed Master around the fire and warmed himself. Three times he was asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples, and three times Peter denied Him. The last time, while he was yet speaking, the cock crew.

And the Lord turned and looked

upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said unto him, "Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny Me thrice."

And Peter went out and wept bitterly.

The Parting Of The Ways

A newspaper headline announced the death of a Canadian Customs Inspector. It read: "Death writes finis to . . . the parting of the ways!"

The Inspector was killed by a truck trailer at the end of the Ambassador Bridge as he was about to retire after 25 years' service.

In his pocket was found a farewell speech he had planned to read at a party to be held for him at 5 o'clock p.m. that same day. His speech read:

"And now at this parting of the ways, I thank you and wish you long life, health and happiness."

His wish may have come true for some of his friends to whom his farewell speech was addressed, but for the Inspector himself all was over. He had suddenly left this world where he had hoped to enjoy life for a while longer. Whether his spirit is at home with the Lord or whether he waits the dreaded judgment day, we cannot say. This tragedy and a thousand others that happen every day in this world, should bring home to our consciences the solemn truth that life is so uncertain and that eternity is but a step away. King David said, "There is but a step between me and death."

O, dear friends, be ready! If you are not saved, do not put off salvation's day any longer.

Tomorrow's sun may never rise

To bless thy long-deluded sight;

This is the time, Oh, then, be wise;

Thou wouldst be saved, why not tonight?

God says: "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2.

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Sirrah

James Hogg, the shepherd poet of Scotland, told a remarkable story of his shepherd dog Sirrah.

One evening Mr. Hogg's large flock of lambs became frightened. In spite of all he could do, they scampered away over the hills in three different directions.

"Sirrah," said the worried shepherd, "they're all awa'!"

Sirrah trotted off into the darkness as though he knew exactly what to do. All night long Mr. Hogg wandered over the hills in search of the lambs. Finally at day break he decided there was nothing to do but go to his employer and tell him that 700 lambs had been lost.

Just as he was returning sorrowfully homeward, he saw a number of lambs at the bottom of a deep ravine. To his immense joy, he noticed that Sirrah was keeping guard over them. At first he thought the dog must have found one of the three groups of the runaways, but when he came closer, he was surprised to see that the whole flock was there. Not one lamb of the 700 was missing.

How the dog had managed this and how he had brought all three groups of lambs together, the shepherd was never able to figure out.

"But I never felt so grateful to any

living creature," he said, "as I did to my faithful Sirrah that morning."

The Lord Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He could say, "The Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep." Not one of His lambs will be missing in that day when all His flock are gathered safely home in the heavenly fold.

When His enemies came to take Him on the night of His betrayal, He went to meet them, saying: "If therefore ye seek Me, let these [My disciples] go their way: that the saying might be fulfilled, which He spake, of them which Thou gavest Me have I lost none." John 18:8, 9.

The shepherd was ever grateful to faithful Sirrah for saving all his lambs, and God the Father will ever be grateful to His beloved Son for His work on the cross by which He has saved every sheep and lamb of His flock. God is going to fill heaven with sons and daughters; they will be just like His own beloved Son, and they shall sing the Father's praise and the praise of Jesus for ever and ever.

Are you one of His lambs, dear reader? Can you join in heaven's eternal song and sing, "Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood . . . to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"? Rev. 1:5.



When we were young my brother Bob and I used to have a lot of fun on the way to and from school. Our route was through a country lane about a mile long. There was not a house to be seen along the way and very seldom a policeman. We used to run through the woods, climb the trees, pick the flowers along the side of the lane and enjoy ourselves to our heart's content.

One morning as we were starting out for school as usual, we noticed a big new sign which read, "No Trespassing." This meant that we must keep to the road and no longer were we allowed to climb the trees or pick the flowers.

No sooner had we read the sign than we wanted to disobey the warning. On our way home from school we threw stones at that sign board, but it stood firm. Each day we threw stones and even mud at it, until finally we could hardly read the words at all. We were

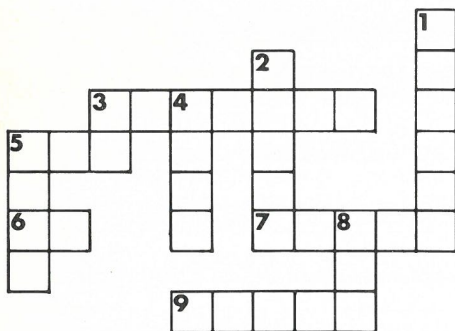
like hundreds of people who dislike the solemn warnings of the Bible and who resent or avoid anyone or anything that might bring the Word of the Lord home to their consciences.

One morning we noticed that the farmer who owned the fields had set up a new sign with the same big black letters, "No Trespassing." This time we climbed over the hedge, pulled up the sign, post and all, and then ran away as fast as we could. However, we were not to get away with our mischief. The farmer had been watching. He quickly gave chase and caught up with us. He went right to the principal of our school, and Bob and I were punished for our misdeeds.

Young though we were, we should have had the sense to know that we could not get rid of the law by pulling up the sign. And yet how many there are, boys and girls and older folks too, who think that they can insult God and escape judgment by getting rid of His Word and by running away from Him.

Bob and I ran for a mile, but some have been running away for years from the God whom they have wronged. How foolish this is! No one can escape Him; "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the

SCRIPTURE CROSSWORD



DOWN

1. ——— Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. 1:15.
2. A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of ——— Christ. Gal. 2:16.
3. We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall ——— saved. Acts 15:11.

DOWN

4. Thou shalt confess with thy mouth the ——— Jesus. Romans 10:9.
5. Call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and ——— shalt glorify Me. Ps. 50:15.
8. Wash me, ——— I shall be whiter than snow. Ps. 51:7.

ACROSS

3. Dost thou ——— on the Son of God? John 9:35.
5. ——— Son of God, Who loved me, and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20.
6. Whosoever shall call ——— the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21.
7. Thou ——— call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins. Matt. 1:21.
9. By grace are ye ——— through faith. Eph. 2:8.

Rearrange the words in the crossword to find out what Paul told the Philippian jailor in Acts 16.

things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10.

The wonder of it all is that the God the sinner is running away from is One who loves him. Instead of wanting to punish him, God wants to save and bless him.

If you are one of those who are trying to get away from God, dear reader, know this, that God loves you, and if you will but turn to Him in true repentance, He will forgive you. He gave His own dear Son to die upon the cross for you, and His precious blood cleanses from all sin.

Do not stay away from Him any longer, but turn to Him now and you will find in Him a Saviour-God. Instead of death He will give you life - eternal life, and in the place of your fear, peace and eternal happiness.

The Magnet



A magnet is made of steel and is magnetized at both ends. It has the power of attracting to itself and of holding whatever it attracts.

Suppose we mix some steel filings with some sand. When we bring the magnet near, immediately all the steel jumps and gathers to the magnet, leaving the sand behind.

The magnet is like the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is like the gospel also. The magnet

Separates

When Christ is preached as Saviour, all who receive Him are separated from the ungodly, they come out from among unsaved companions, drawn by the gospel, which is to all who receive it, "the power of God unto salvation" (Rom. 1:16).

The magnet

Attracts

The Saviour said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth will draw all

men unto Me." John 12:32. He has been lifted up on the cross in death; He now is lifted up on God's throne in resurrection; and when He is lifted up before sinners in the gospel, all who look to Him are saved (John 3:15). Then they are so attracted to Christ, they cleave to Him with purpose of heart (Acts 11:23).

The magnet

Holds

It keeps its grip. None who are drawn to Christ shall ever perish (John 10:28). They are "kept by the power of God" (1 Pet. 1:5).

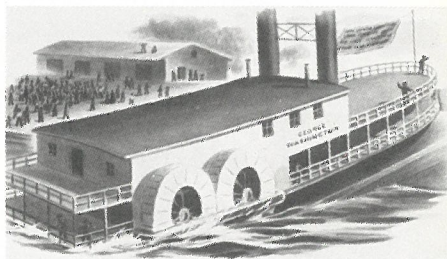
The magnet

Guides

In the sailor's compass on the trackless ocean, the sailor has in it the means of sure guidance as he keeps his eye on the needle and steers his ship as it indicates.

So Christ is the living compass. The written Word is the chart which those sailing across life's sea need ever to consult for guidance, safety and progress on the voyage to their heavenly home.

No More A Stranger



Years ago, before the coming of the railroads, people used to travel largely on horseback, in stage coaches, or by boat. In those days most everyone who visited the town of Cincinnati came by boat.

One sunny afternoon a boat arrived from Pittsburgh. Aboard was a company of people coming to live in Cincinnati. Their friends were waiting on the pier for the boat to dock. As soon as the newcomers stepped on shore, they were surrounded by friends and warmly welcomed.

But in that company which had just arrived, there was one who was a

stranger. He had no friends or anyone who knew him in Cincinnati. He had a sense of loneliness as the boat came down the river, but he felt ten times more lonely now. What would he do? The crowd was beginning to scatter, when suddenly he called out,

"Friends, if there are on shore any of you who love the Lord Jesus Christ, I am your brother."

In a moment half a dozen were at his side. They welcomed him to Cincinnati and to their homes. How differently he felt now! Instead of being lonely he felt quite at home because he had found those of "like precious faith."

How real and precious is the bond that is felt between those who belong to the Lord Jesus. Dear reader, can you say that you are a brother or sister to those who love Him? Do you like to be in the company of those who love to talk about Him as their Saviour?

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:26.

"Unto you therefore which believe, He is precious." 1 Peter 2:7.

SIMON PETER

Sifted As Wheat



The Lord Jesus had prayed for Peter that his faith might not fail, and though Peter went out and wept bitterly, he did not go away and hang himself like Judas did. The look that broke Peter's heart brought the sorrow and tears of true repentance. The chaff of self-confidence was winnowed away, but the precious grain of love to his Lord remained.

We cannot tell how Peter bore those terrible, sorrowful hours when Jesus hung in suffering on the cross, when the dead body of his Lord lay in the tomb and it seemed as if His enemies had gained the victory, but they must have been the saddest in his life. Then came the third day, and very early in

the morning, the first day of the week, Jesus rose triumphantly from the dead. When the women came to the sepulchre, they found the stone that had covered the entrance rolled away. Going in they found a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment. He was one of God's messengers and he said to them: "Be not afraid; ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified; He is risen; He is not here." He told them to go their way and tell His disciples *and Peter* that He went before them into Galilee.

The women were too frightened to give the message. But Mary Magdalene ran to Peter and John and said, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and we know not where they have laid Him."

Peter and John ran together to the tomb. But Peter's heart was heavy, and that made his feet heavy, too. He did not run so quickly as John, so John reached the tomb first. He looked in there but did not go in. Then Peter came up, he went right inside the tomb, and saw the linen grave clothes lying there empty. Then John went in, and he saw and believed.

When they found that the tomb was empty and the grave clothes left behind, they did not linger there but went away again to their own home. John believed, but Peter went home wondering at what had happened.

Mary Magdalene was the first one to whom Jesus appeared. But later in the day He came to Peter when he was alone, for Jesus had something to say to Peter that not even John must hear. And do you not think that Peter must have had something he badly wanted to say to Jesus? But all we know about that meeting is that when the disciples were gathered together that evening, they were saying to one another, "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon."

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Messages of the Love of God



"Coo-o-ey"

In Australia there lived a family of five; Father and Mother, Gordon (9), Jimmie (5), and Janet (7).

One day Mother sent them out to gather fire wood. Somehow they wandered too far into the forest and suddenly found out they didn't know the way home.

"Coo-o-ey! Coo-o-ey!" called Gordon as loud as he could, his eyes red with crying. But the only answer was the "Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!" of the laughing bird. There were other birds like the bell bird and the colored parrots, but they all seemed to be saying, "We don't know you. Who are you?"

"I'm so tired," cried little Jimmie, and he fell to the ground. Gordon and Janet had to give up, too. The three huddled close together and soon all were sound asleep.

Back in the little cottage, mother was getting supper. Mr. Bruce would be home soon, and the children should show up any time.

"Mary, where are the children?" asked her husband as he came in.

"They went to the woods for kindling."

John Bruce went to the door and called, "Coo-o-ey!" but there was no answer.

At last father and mother were both alarmed. They called their neighbors and a search party went out. All night long they searched, but in the early morning, Mr. Bruce came back and said, "They are nowhere to be found."

With a heavy heart and her eyes filled with tears, Mrs. Bruce gave her husband a quick bite to eat. The whole neighborhood party kept up the search for seven weary days and nights. But there was no sign of the children.

Finally they thought of calling in some of the natives - the aborigines - to help. These fast disappearing people are experts on the trail. Soon they found a bent twig, further on some flattened grass, and then suddenly one of them sent up a yell and darted forward.

There in a bed of ferns were Gordon, Janet and Jimmie huddled together. They were still alive! Gordon tried to sit up but fell back, and his lips were so dried he could only groan, "Father!" The others murmured, "Cold! Cold!"

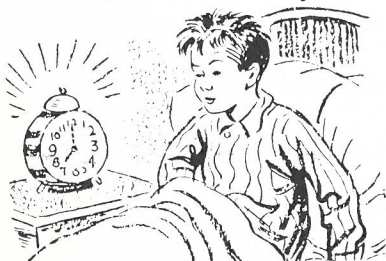
Strong arms carried the children home. They were put into warm beds. With careful nursing they actually recovered. For nine days and eight nights they had been lost. Father and Mother were overcome with thankfulness.

Many dear boys and girls and grownups, too, are lost and do not know it. They are wandering in this dark world of sin and sorrow. Now the Lord Jesus "came to seek and to

save that which was lost." He loves each straying lamb and sheep far more than father and mother. He laid down His life to save His lost ones. A lost seeking sinner and a seeking Saviour are sure to meet. When one puts his trust in Jesus, then He will put that one on His shoulders of strength and carry him safe home to heaven.

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

A Sidewalk Prayer



"Tom! Tom!" called Mother from the bottom of the stairs one morning. "Aren't you ready for school? The first bell has already rung and you haven't had your breakfast. You will be late if you don't hurry."

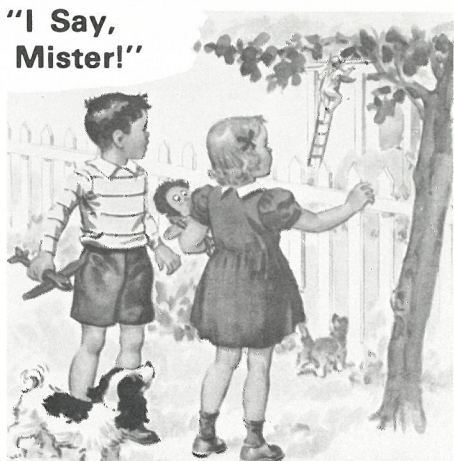
Tom woke up suddenly and looked at his watch. Oh, horrors! He had overslept. Hurriedly scrambling out of bed he hurried to get ready for school. A few minutes later he was in the kitchen gobbling down his breakfast. How hot the cereal was that morning!

Hastily kissing his mother goodbye, he set out for school on the run. Then suddenly he remembered he had not read his Bible nor prayed that morning. What should he do?

He decided he would honor the Lord, so there and then he pulled his little Testament from his pocket and read just two verses. Then going aside into a vacant lot, he knelt down and prayed. Getting up he ran as hard as he could to school. The Lord helped him, and he got there just in time.

Tom grew up to be an honored Christian and served the Lord faithfully. He remembered to put God first. God has promised to honor them that honor Him, and His promise never fails.

"I Say, Mister!"



"I say, Mister," said little Judy, as she watched a workman go up a very long ladder. "Aren't you afraid to go up that big ladder?"

He laughed. "No, I'm used to it," he replied.

Little Judy was not satisfied with that answer, so after thinking for a minute or two, she said, "I guess, Mister, that you are not afraid because when you came out this morning you asked God to keep you safe."

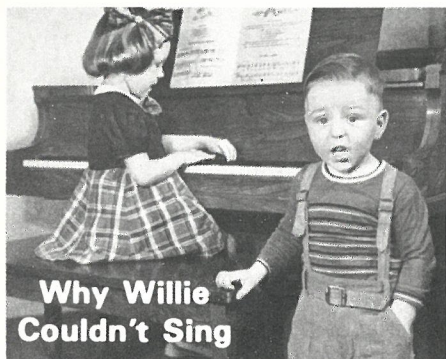
Now this man had not asked God to keep him safe that morning; in fact, he had lived without God and had not prayed for many a day. He did not answer the little girl, but for the rest of the day her childish words kept ringing in his ears. He could not forget them. They brought back memories of Sunday school, of his mother and of the Saviour who had died for him. That night he got on his knees and prayed for forgiveness. Before he got into bed he sought the Saviour and found Him.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28.

"They that seek Me early shall find Me." Proverbs 8:17.

He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 5:24



Why Willie Couldn't Sing

Mr. J. Denham Smith was a Christian preacher and wrote the hymn:

Rise, my soul! behold, 'tis Jesus,
Jesus fills thy wondering eyes;
See Him now in glory seated,
Where thy sins no more can rise.

Mr. Smith had a little boy named Willie. One day the family were singing another lovely hymn:

Now I have found a Friend,
Jesus is mine!
His love will never end,
Jesus is mine!
He will my wants supply,
His precious blood is nigh,
None can my hope destroy,
Jesus is mine!

But Willie was not singing at all. Afterwards he said to his mother, "Don't sing that song any more. I can't sing it because Jesus is not mine."

The next morning when Willie did not come down for breakfast, his daddy went upstairs and he found his little son kneeling by his bed.

"When is the next children's meeting, Daddy?" asked Willie.

"Next Friday."

When Friday came, Willie was at the meeting, listening carefully to all that was said. After the meeting, he went to his father's side and said happily, "Now I can sing, that 'Jesus is mine!'"

During the meeting Willie had trusted the Saviour as his own. Years passed and he went on faithfully, a bright happy Christian.

Can you truthfully say or sing with others, "Jesus is mine!"?

If you trust in Him as your Saviour, then you, too, will be able to sing, "Jesus is mine!" He loves you and died for you upon the cross. He wants to save you and be a friend, for He said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me."

Was It A Dream?

Was it merely a dream?

A light shines clear and sweet,
The prisoner hears a voice,
"Put sandals on thy feet."

It was not merely a dream,

He walks the starlit street;
God's messenger has come
His freedom to complete.

Who was he? Read Acts 12.

Titles Of The Lord

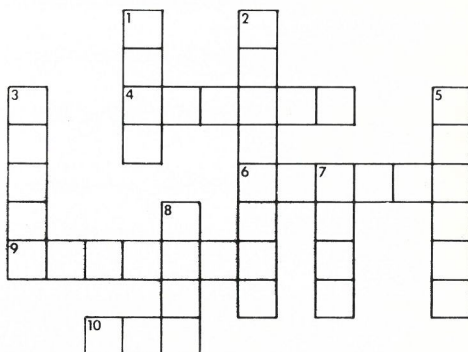
DOWN

- Christ, Who is our ----- Col. 3:4.
- I am the good ----- John 10:11.
- Thou shalt call His name ----- Matt. 1:21.
- Thou art the -----, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:16.
- Confess with thy mouth the ----- Jesus. Rom. 10:9.
- The ----- was made flesh, and dwelt among us. John 1:14.

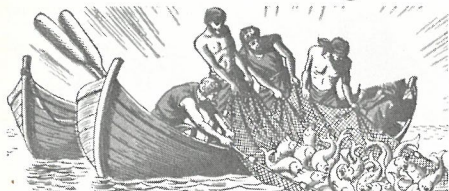
ACROSS

- There is a ----- that sticketh closer than a brother. Prov. 18:24.
- The Lord is my ----- Heb. 13:6.
- The Father sent the Son to be the ----- 1 John 4:14.

- They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, ----- with us. Matt. 1:23.



Back To Fishing



After the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead, Peter and the other disciples had to learn to follow Him in a new way. Before He died on the cross, they could see Him all the time, but now they only saw Him when He showed Himself to them. Very soon He was going up into heaven, and they would only see Him with the eye of faith; but they must follow Him still.

One day after they had gone back to Galilee, Peter said to his fellow disciples, "I go a fishing." They answered, "We also go with thee."

They did not stop to ask themselves whether they would be following Jesus by going. They went out and got into a boat at once — Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John and two others — seven of them. *"And that night they caught nothing."*

When morning came Jesus stood on the shore, but they did not know that it was He. He said to them, "Children, have ye any meat?" They answered, "No."

Then He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and ye shall find." They did so, and the net was so full of fish that they could not draw it in. John knew who it was standing on the shore and said to Peter, "It is the Lord."

Peter did not wait for another word, but wrapping his fisherman's coat around him, he flung himself into the sea to go to Jesus. The others followed in the boat dragging the net and fish along with them.

When they got to shore, they found a fire of coals and some fish laid on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring of the fish which ye have now caught."

Peter went up and drew the net to land full of great fishes, a hundred and fifty three of them, and yet the net was not broken.

Jesus said to them, "Come and dine." Instead of their going home hungry and tired, they found they were to be His guests. And not one of them dared to say to Him, "Who art Thou?" for they knew it was the Lord.

Then Jesus came and waited on them; He took bread and gave it to them, and He gave them fish besides. How good that meal must have tasted to them after being out on the sea all night, and especially since the Lord Himself prepared it!

And, blessed be His Name, He is still the same, for He richly provides for all who trust Him as Saviour and Lord. Especially does He provide for the needs of our souls, for He feeds us with the Bread of Life - Himself come down from heaven and made known in grace - which if a man eats, he shall never hunger again, and if he believes, he shall never thirst.

He richly feeds our souls

With blessings from above,

And leads us where the river rolls

Of endless love.

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." Psalm 34:8.

We believe that in this scene on the sea shore we have a picture of the coming millennial day when the Lord Jesus shall return in power to this earth. In the fish already on the shore we have the little Jewish remnant. The net full of great fishes tells of the great millennial haul of the Gentiles who will be brought into blessing through the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom by the Jewish remnant. But all will be through the work of that blessed Saviour who through His death and resurrection has accomplished that great work of redemption. How wonderful to think that that day is near at hand! "Come, Lord Jesus." . . . "Thy kingdom come."

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The Black Book

Roy was a young boy who lived in a village in the Philippines. He had learned to read, and his favorite Book was the Bible; but he was the only one in the village who possessed one.

Those were days when some men in the village did not like the people to read the Bible. So Roy hid it in a hole down by the river, and from time to time, when no one was looking, he would steal away down there and all alone he would read the stories of Jesus that he loved so well.

One day after a great rain the river flooded and his precious Book was washed away down the river. How sad he was when he found it was gone!

However, in another village farther down the river, there lived a man who was famous among the people as a storyteller. He was out on the river the day after the big rain when he noticed something black in the water. Picking it up he discovered it was a book. After drying the pages he read into it and found it to be full of wonderful stories. He began to tell these stories to the people, and he became more famous than ever.

By and by when American mission-

aries began to arrive, they gave the people Bibles. They were not afraid to read them now.

A Philippino Christian came to the village one day and he began to tell them wonderful stories about Jesus, about David and Joseph and others we read about in the Bible. Some of the people said, "We have heard those stories before. Are they true?" The preacher told them they were and asked where they got them. "From the storyteller," they replied. "Where did he get them?" They went to bring the storyteller and when he came, he told them about finding the black Book in the river.

Sometime later the same preacher visited the first village where Roy lived and told him the story of how a black book had been found down the river. Together they went to visit the storyteller, and what was the boy's delight to find that it was his own precious Bible that the other had found floating on the water. How happy he was when the storyteller gave his treasured Book back to him again.

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them." Jer. 15:16.

So the Word of God grew and multiplied in that land, and many of the Philipinos have found Christ as their Saviour.

"Look unto Me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth." Isa. 45:22.

"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Rom. 10:13.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 1 John 4:9

MEMORY
VERSE

"From a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
2 Timothy 3:15

Grandpa And Susie



Grandpa used to drive a bus. When the bus stopped, he would open the door and the people would step in.

Grandpa had a little granddaughter named Susie. She had gone to Sunday school, and there she sang about the Lord Jesus and read out of God's Holy Word. She also learned Bible verses and liked to take picture texts home to color.

In the evening Grandpa was sitting in the livingroom with Susie on his lap. How he loved that little girl.

"Grandpa," said Susie, "I'm going to sing the song we sang in Sunday school for you."

Standing up in front of him she put her little hands up in the air and sang, "Christ is so high that you can't get over Him." Then she put her hands down low and sang, "So deep that you can't get under Him." Then putting her hands away out, "So wide you can't get around Him." Then pointing with her finger at Grandpa she sang, "So you'd better come in at the door."

Grandpa thought it was very nice, and so Susie sang it over and over again. Soon it was bedtime and he kissed his little pet goodnight.

Before Susie was up in the morning Grandpa was on the bus again. When he opened the door for people to step in, he thought of the little chorus, "You'd better come in at the door." It seemed as if little Susie was pointing her finger at him each time he opened the door and he thought of those words.

Grandpa didn't want those words to trouble him constantly, so he went to a home of a Christian friend where he found out how he could come in at the

door and be saved. His friend told him how the Lord Jesus died on the cross and became the door. He is the only way for sinful men and women and boys and girls to enter in and be saved.

Grandpa came to the Lord Jesus as His Saviour and now is safe inside the door. His little Susie is safe inside, too. Are you?

"I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:9.

Nardoo



A strange plant called the nardoo grows in the deserts of Australia. It is like a fern, and the natives would eat its seeds when they could get no other food.

The nardoo has one peculiar property, however. While it satisfies and produces a pleasant, comfortable feeling, it does not nourish.

A party of explorers once crossing this central desert, ran out of food.

"Here," said King their leader, "is a plant which the natives eat, I know. We need not fear of starving."

Day after day they fed on the nardoo, and they felt satisfied. Presently their strength began to fail.

"I feel as weak as a baby," said one.

"I can't walk more than a mile today," exclaimed another.

As there was no other food to be found, and as they did not know the deceptive nature of the nardoo, they continued to feed on it.

Finally they laid down and died of starvation. A solitary survivor was discovered under a tree, and he told the story of their journey.

Dear reader, are you feeding on the nardoo plant of this world? Are you thinking that the pleasures of this life can satisfy you? Have you forgotten that you have an immortal soul that needs the Bread of Life to satisfy it? The Lord Jesus said: "I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." John 6:35.

A Treasured Bible



One of the most highly valued possessions of the British and Foreign Bible Society is a little old Bible that once belonged to a small Welsh girl, named Mary Jones.

In the year 1800 Mary lived in a small village in Wales. She had learned to read at a school three miles away. Usually she spent her Saturday afternoons on a farm owned by a Mrs. Evans who possessed one of the few Welsh Bibles in the community. In those days Bibles were not nearly so plentiful as they are now, and so it was mostly the well-to-do people who owned copies.

Mary read chapter after chapter in Mrs. Evans' Bible, and there was nothing in the world she wanted so much as a Bible of her own. But she was poor, and very few pennies came her way.

One day Mrs. Evans gave Mary two hens. Mary sold the eggs that the hens laid and saved every penny. After many weeks she had enough money with which to buy the treasured Book. Away she trudged on foot one morning to Bala, a town 16 miles away, where she had heard that a minister, Mr. Thomas Charles, had Bibles in the Welsh tongue to sell.

Mr. Charles had sold all his Bibles but two, and, when Mary arrived, she found that even these two copies had been promised to friends. The sorrow of the tired little girl who had walked so far to buy a Bible touched Mr. Charles' heart so much that he decided one of his friends must wait for his copy, and so he let Mary have the Book.

Mary's joy knew no bounds as she returned home with her treasure. Many an hour she spent reading the precious volume alone, and after supper, before the blazing fire, in the dim light of a candle, she would read to her parents the wonderful stories in the Old Testament and of the Saviour's life and death in the New.

After Mary had left with her Bible, Mr. Charles got to thinking of her and the joy she had found in possessing a Bible all her own. He went up to London to the tract society and urged upon them the need of Bibles in Wales. One to whom he spoke remarked, "If Bibles for Wales, why not for the whole world?" As a result, plans were made for sending copies of the holy Book to many parts of the world. Since that time, the Bible has been printed in many hundreds of different languages, and millions of copies of Bibles and Testaments have been distributed world-wide.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isa. 9:2.

Do we treasure our Bibles as Mary Jones did hers? Can we say with the psalmist, "The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." Psalm. 119:72.



**"I Belong
To
The King"**

King George VI had a little terrier dog, and a very proud little dog he was, for he wore on his collar the words —

"BOB, I BELONG TO THE KING."

How wonderful that the Christian can say much more! Those who are redeemed can say they belong to the King of kings, purchased by His precious blood and day by day kept by His power.

What Jesus Would Have Done



A missionary told a story of four young African girls who had come to know and love the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. Now they wanted others to know and love Him, too. All alone they had built a little mud hut with a thatched roof where they could have gospel meetings.

During one service the missionary noticed with horror that the four girls were sitting close to an old woman who was a leper. The missionary knew the girls were in great danger of contracting the dread disease, so after the service he spoke to the four girls and explained to them the danger in sitting too near the old leper lady.

"Sir, we know," said one, "but no one wants Sisi to be near them, so we asked her to sit with us. *We thought it would be what Jesus would have done.*"



It was early morning on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, after the Lord's resurrection, and He had just treated His disciples to a rich repast - one that they will never forget.

After they had dined, Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these?" Peter replied, "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee." He said unto him, "Feed My lambs."

Then He said to Peter the second time, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" and Peter answered, "Yea,

Lord; Thou knowest that I love Thee." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

Jesus said unto Him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me?" Peter was grieved because the Lord said unto him the third time, "Lovest thou Me?" And he said unto Him, "Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love thee." Then Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

When the Lord asked Peter the third time, Peter replied as it were, "Lord, I have failed Thee completely, and there isn't anything outwardly to prove what I say; but I know that Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that deep down in my heart I love Thee."

Yes, Jesus knew that Peter truly loved Him, even as it had grieved His heart so sorely to hear Peter's denial three times over, so now it is sweet to Him to hear his humble confession of love.

It cost Peter a lot to have to make that confession there in the presence of all the others, and that three times over. But how worth while it was to know that Jesus trusted Him with the charge of the lambs and sheep of His flock, those sheep that were so precious to Him that He laid down His life for them.

Peter had seen Jesus hang in suffering on the cross, and he knew a little bit *how* precious the sheep were to the Good Shepherd. He never forgot the charge given to him, and he never forgot that Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, and that he, Peter, was only an under-shepherd. Years afterward, when an old man, he wrote a letter in which he reminded the other under-shepherds that they must feed God's flock. Then he told them of the bright crown, the crown of glory that will never fade, which they will receive from the Chief Shepherd when He comes in His glory.

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The Robber's Scarlet Sash

"They are coming! The robbers from the hills! They have outnumbered the police and driven them away! What shall we do?"

The cry ran from lip to lip in a great city in northwest China. The bandits were on their way to sack the town. The armed officers had fled before them, and the town was at their mercy. Suddenly there arose a cry:

"To the foreigner's house! The mission compound is large! There we shall be safe!"

So the English missionary found to his amazement the doors of his compound besieged by a terrified crowd — women and children by the hundreds were clamoring to be admitted to the shelter of the mission. Mr. Shirley, the missionary, could do nothing except pray. God knew, and God could preserve them even now with danger and death advancing so near. Already far up the streets where the bandit chief was leading his lawless horde in looting and pillage, could be

heard the dread cry: "The foreigner! Show me where he lives!"

Mr. Shirley knew only too well what kind of fate was likely to be in store for him. But he made no attempt to hide or escape. Calm and fearless, trusting in God, he went outside closing the gate behind him and waited.

"Where is the foreigner?" demanded the bandit chief.

"Here! I am he!" The missionary stood waiting. What terrible fate was to be his? Instead — the robber chief stopped. Then he came forward smiling — *and held out a friendly hand.*

"You are the foreigner? No harm shall come to you," said the bandit. "Once I was ill, and one of your foreign doctors saved my life and I got well. So now your life shall be spared. Take this!"

He unwound his scarlet sash and handed it to Mr. Shirley.

"Take it! Tie it to the gate of your compound. No one will dare harm you or anyone else within your gates. I have spoken."

The robber band pursued their way through the city, robbing and looting everywhere. But none came near the mission — it was safe! — protected by the robber's sash.

Did the missionaries and their Chinese guests, sheltered behind that scarf tied on the gate open their Bibles and read of others saved by a scarlet line? For a red cord saved the messengers whom Joshua had sent to spy out Jericho. Let down by that line from a window on the city wall, the messengers escaped back to Joshua's camp while Rahab, who had saved their

lives, obeyed their order and tied the red cord in her window.

To Rahab it was a signal of protection; to us it is a picture of the scarlet line which runs through all the word of God, telling of the coming of One who, on the cross of Calvary, put away sin so that the guilt that is like scarlet, and red like crimson, is washed as white as snow.

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isa. 1:18.

The crowd of Chinese women and children were safe behind the gate where hung the scarlet sash because Mr. Shirley had gone outside and parleyed with the robber chief. And we read that "Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate." Heb. 12:12. He met the enemy's power and the judgment of God against sin at the cross for all those who trust Him as their Saviour. Are you under the shelter of His blood, dear reader?

It cost the blood of God's dear Son
To save the soul of anyone.

We have no strength, guilty and lost;
But grace is free, at infinite cost.

Friend, be with self forever done,
And put your trust in that blest One.

Scripture Alphabet

Try to complete these names. They will be found in the chapters shown.

C—— Where Jesus performed His first miracle. John 2.

C—— The mountain where Elijah faced the prophets of Baal. 1 Kings 18.

C—— Abel's brother. Gen. 4.

C—— One who brought back a good report. Num. 13.

C—— The promised land. Num. 13.

*There is no sorrow, Lord, too slight,
To bring in prayer to Thee;
There is no burdening care too light
To wake Thy sympathy.*

Your Sin Will Find You Out



When we were young, my brother Rob and I had lots of fun together. But we were not always good; we were often naughty. There were times when Mom told us to do something, but we ended up in doing just the opposite. We hadn't yet learned the importance of the scripture: "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not . . . for whoso findeth Me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord." Prov. 8:33, 35.

One summer morning Mother told us to take her grocery cart and do some shopping for her at the super market. She specifically instructed us *not* to go by way of the creek and to come straight home when we were finished.

In a few moments we were off, but all along the way we were plotting and planning how we could get down to the creek without Mom's finding it out. We decided to visit the creek on our way home.

With our cart packed full of groceries, we trudged down the path towards the woods. Suddenly I said, "You know, Mom told us not to go down here."

"Oh," said Rob, "no one sees us, and Mom will never find out because we won't tell her." We had forgotten the verse: "Be sure your sin will find you out." Num. 32:23.

With my mind a little more at ease, we slowly took the cart down the steep embankment that led to the creek. Already we could see the water splashing over the rocks below. Oh how delightfully inviting it looked!

Suddenly we reached an unexpected soft spot in the gravel, and the cart overturned. Groceries flew everywhere and went rolling down the steep embankment. I became alarmed, but Rob reassured me that he would recover the groceries and clean off the dirt.

I watched him work and thought how clever he was to get all the dirt off and pack the cart full again. I was relieved as we started home once again. But I had forgotten that verse: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Mom was smarter than we were, and it wasn't long before she began to ask questions. She noticed the bananas at the bottom of one bag; then a loaf of bread crushed between cans of soup. She knew that no cashier would pack groceries that way. She didn't have to ask many questions, for our red faces and guilty looks told the tale.

We were punished for our disobedience. I proved that day that disobedience does not pay, but only brings sorrow and shame, whereas obedience and happiness go together. I also learned the truth of that verse: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

How She Knew

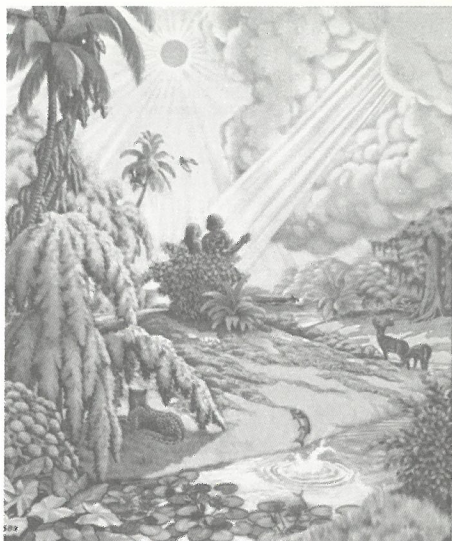


A poor Italian lady was asked how she knew the Bible was the Word of God. At first she became confused and could not answer. But suddenly she turned to her inquirer and asked, "How do you know there is a sun in the sky?"

"I feel its warmth and I see its light," was the reply.

"Just so!" cried the poor woman joyfully. "That is how I know that the Bible is from God, for it warms my heart and lightens my soul."

In the Beginning



Long, long ago there was a time when there was nothing, no one — except God. There were no people, no birds or animals, no land or sea, no sun, moon or stars — only God! He was always there, and He was the Creator of all things.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." But the earth became a waste and empty place — all dark and covered with water. "God said, 'Let there be light: and there was light.'" He called the light Day and the darkness, Night.

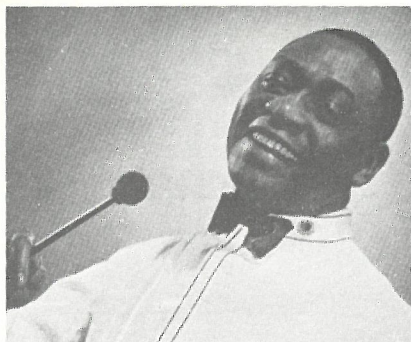
Then God made the sky and called it Heaven. He caused the waters to be gathered together, and the dry land to appear. The waters He called Seas and the land Earth. He made the grass and flowers to grow on the earth and all kinds of trees.

On the fourth day He caused the sun to shine during the day and the moon at night. "He made the stars also."

Then God created the fish and the great whales to swim in the seas and the birds to fly in the air. On the fifth day He made all the animals and things that creep on the earth.

Last of all He made man and made him lord over all His beautiful creation. And God looked on everything He had made and said it was very good.

Sam's Prayers



Sam was a wooly-headed smiley-faced native Christian who acted as a guide to the missionary.

"Ah, Suh," said Sam, "I used to treat the Lord as if He were a poor man and had very little to give away."

"How so?" asked the missionary.

"Well, in those days," answered Sam, "I prayed, 'Lord, do give me a little more faith,' or 'Oh, I beseech Thee, Lord, bestow on Sam rather more grace!' And I begged and prayed for everything as if I had to drag it away from Him. Then a white man came to preach at Lagos, and he described how great the Lord was and what His riches in glory must be.

"As I sat under a tree that night I said to myself, 'Sam, you've been praying as if the Lord owned only a small sago palm, and as if His heart was as hard as the shell of a coconut; when all the time every beast in the forest is His, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. His heart is like the great sun that warms and gladdens us all, and He is full of love to both poor saints and sinners.'"

"Well," said the missionary, "what did you do after that?"

"Oh, suh," was Sam's glad reply, his dusky face all aglow with joy, "I just acted on what I had found out. I said, 'Lord, Ise very poor and quite empty of grace and patience and all them beautiful things. But Thou art very rich. Give this poor sinner according to Your great heart and great supply.'"

"And I know He answered you, Sam," said the missionary, remembering with thankfulness how God was

blessing Sam's simple faithful testimony to his fellows.

"Suh," answered Sam, "the Lord jus' weighs me down with a load of all the good things that He gives, and He seems to be saying to me all the time: 'Use this, Sam; I've a lot more I want to give you.' O, suh, life has been a different thing to me since that time. You see, I'm never afraid of asking too much, for I know He loves to give it."

"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." Jude 21.

On Which Side Are You?



A man was hurrying to catch a ferry-boat one day, but just as he reached the barrier, the gates were closed, and he had to watch his boat leave the dock without him.

Instantly the words flashed into his mind: "And the door was shut." Matt. 25:10.

"If this had been the door into heaven," he thought to himself, "it would never have opened for me again."

After a wait of some little time, the ferry-boat returned, the barrier was raised, and the man was able to resume his journey. But he could not concentrate on his work that day, for the word spoken by the Saviour kept returning to his mind: "And the door was shut."

At last he went aside by himself, and getting down upon his knees, he gave himself to the Lord Jesus Christ who also said: "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." John 10:9.

Immediately his mind was at peace, for he had entered through the Door while it was still open. Have you?

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